

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-12 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 XMB-07 RSR-01 /135 W
----- 015802

R 091446 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8657

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 3633

E. O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR IT EG XF

SUBJECT: ITALIAN PRIME MINISTER MENTIONS SECOND SUEZ CANAL

DEPT PASS USINT CAIRO

1. DURING MAY SPEECH IN SICILY, ITALIAN PRIME MINISTER ANDREOTTI MENTIONED THE EVENTUAL NEED FOR ANOTHER SUEZ CANAL TO HANDLE VESSELS WHICH PRESENT CANAL CANNOT ACCOMMODATE.

2. AS ADDRESSES WILL RECALL, THERE HAS BEEN REPEATED PRESS SPECULATION THAT ITALIANS PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF ANOTHER SUEZ CANAL AS PART OF AN ITALIAN MID EAST PEACE PLAN PRESENTED TO USG DURING ANDREOTTI'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON. ITALIANS SUBSEQUENTLY DENIED THAT ANY SUCH PROJECT WAS SUGGESTED.

3. IN VIEW OF ANDREOTTI'S MAY 6 STATEMENT, THE AMBASSADOR, DURING MAY 7 MEETING WITH ANDREOTTI, RAISED MATTER.

4. ANDREOTTI ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HE HAD INDEED MENTIONED SECOND
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CANAL DURING MAY 6 SPEECH, BUT HE EXPLAINED ITALIANS HAD CLEAR VIEW OF PRIORITIES OF SITUATION, FIRST OF WHICH WAS REOPENING OF PRESENT CANAL. ANDREOTTI SAID HIS REMARKS SIMPLY POINTED OUT THAT PRESENT CANAL INADEQUATE FOR PRESENT DAY TANKERS AND SECOND WATERWAY WILL INEVITABLY BE REQUIRED.

5 EGYPTIAN EMBASSY ROME OFFICER TOLD US MAY 7 THAT GOE TAKES VERY DIM VIEW OF SECOND CANAL PROJECT, AND IS DISTURBED BY ANDREOTTI'S REITERATION OF IDEA AFTER REPETATED ITALIAN DENIALS ON SUBJECT. HE SAID HE EXPECTED THAT EGYPTIAN EMBASSY WOULD RAISE MATTER WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY. VOLPE

NOTE BY OC/ T: NOT PASSED CAIRO.

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NMAFVVZCZ

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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